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Messages From the Department of Education

July 2014

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ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, INSTRUCTION, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A. Smarter Balanced Field Test

Smarter Balanced conducted a Field Test from March 25 – June 6, 2014. The Field Test was a practice run of the assessment system that helped ensure that test questions are accurate and fair for all students. It also gave teachers and schools a chance to gauge their readiness in advance of the first operational assessment in spring 2015. All 21 Governing States and the U.S. Virgin Islands participated in the Field Test. 4.2 million students completed a practice run of the Smarter Balanced assessments in math, English language arts (ELA), or both. A report on the Field Test summarizing the testing experience and highlighting some initial lessons learned has been posted on the Smarter Balanced Web site at www.smarterbalanced.org/field-test.

Contact: Scott Mantie, (603) 271-3844, Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov

DATA

A. Adequacy Aid - FY2014-15

In accordance with passage of SB 300 and SB 350 the NH Department of Education (DOE) is required to report by October 1st, to the Department of Revenue, revised Adequacy Aid grants for the purpose of setting the school district portion of the tax rate. In order for the DOE to meet this deadline the following timeline for submitting attendance data must be adhered to by all school districts:

- July 15th – Sped Public Submission and EOY Enrollment for sped nonpublic students
- By August 1st – All state Anomalies MUST be resolved and District Reports confirmed
- August 1st – Superintendents need to “certify” EOY submissions and print, complete, sign and send Tuition Report Receiving, Nonpublic 13-14 Special Education Students (A13N), and Nonpublic 13-14 Non-Special Education Students (A13 Other) reports
- August 1st – September 5th – The DOE will review all submissions and contact schools with question
- September 8th thru 30th – The DOE will re-compute the revised Adequacy Aid grant for municipalities

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov

INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

A. 55 New England Colleges and Universities Support Stronger Student Preparation

Over the past decade, the movement to adopt competency-based approaches to teaching, learning, and graduating has gained momentum in New England, and throughout the country, as more educators, parents, business leaders, and elected officials recognize that high educational standards and strong academic preparation are essential to success in today's world. To capture the sentiment of higher education, the New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) developed the Collegiate Endorsement of Proficiency-Based Education and Graduation, which has been signed by all the public institutions of higher education in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as three private

institutions. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/news/collegiate-endorsement.htm.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Collaboration and Co-teaching: Strategies for English Learners

Join international speaker Dr. Andrea Honigsfeld for a 2-day “Train the Trainer” workshop on July 9th and 10th. The training, sponsored by the New Hampshire Department of Education-Title III Office, will take place at the Local Government Center, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Become part of a cadre of teachers, teacher leaders, instructional leaders, or administrators, who can provide turnkey training on best practices in collaboration and co-teaching for the benefit of ELLs. Explore the following topics in a dynamic, interactive workshop environment:

- Initiating, maintaining, and evaluating an integrated, collaborative ESOL service delivery system
- Implementing ten instructional and non-instructional collaborative practices
- Participating in a collaborative instructional cycle: Co-planning, co-teaching, co-assessing, and reflection
- Determining the school and districtwide logistics for collaborative practices
- Exploring seven co-teaching models and connecting these frameworks to Common Core-aligned instructional strategies
- Establishing schoolwide collaborative practices as a pathway to successful implementation of college and career-readiness standards.

Participate in a range of engaging learning experiences, such as video viewing and critiquing, role playing, simulations, case study analyses, small group discussions, and action planning. There is no cost for this workshop. Please click the following link to register:

<http://goo.gl/u8KG4j>

Contact: Dr. Andrea Somoza-Norton, (603) 271-2034, Andrea.Somoza-Norton@doe.nh.gov

B. Designing for Deeper Learning: How to Develop Performance Tasks for the Common Core

The Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity (SCALE) is proud to announce the upcoming launch of their ground breaking performance assessment Massive Online Open Course (MOOC). This nine-week course, beginning September 8, 2014, will focus on building educators’ capacity to use, develop, and implement curriculum-embedded performance assessments that fit local contexts. Course activities include evaluating sample performance tasks and developing and implementing a performance task that is aligned with a specific curricular unit and performance outcomes. We will use a learning-centered approach where assessments are not only about measuring learning, but are also events for learning. This MOOC is designed for grade 6-12 teachers working in the core disciplines of mathematics, language arts, history/social studies, and science. We encourage educators to sign up in school-based teams or in collaboration with other colleagues. While the course is designed for 6-12 classroom teachers, we encourage all those interested in performance assessment to join us. For more information go to <https://novoed.com/learning-design-common-core>.

Contact: Karen Soule, (603) 271- 6813, Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov

C. NH Educators' Statewide Summit

The NH Department of Education and Keene State College announce that they are again collaborating on the Statewide Summer Summit for Educators, which will be held July 30 - August 1. The theme for this year's conference will be *Transformation at the Instructional Core*. Transformation at the Instructional Core is integral to meet expectations for learning and teaching today. The NH Department of Education and Keene State College welcome leaders in educational policy and planning and teams of educators and community members to our Educators' Summit. To register or for more information go to www.keene.edu/conted/conferences/state_ed_conf.

D. School Culture, Climate, & Positive Behavior Support Conference

Schools and communities continue to face obstacles to address behavior, climate, safety, and academic achievement. Establishing a safe school environment using a multi-tiered system of support is related to improved outcomes for all students. This year's conference theme is *What Works: Effective Strategies within Multi-Tiered Systems of Support* and will include presentations by national leaders, New Hampshire educators, youth, and community partners, plus opportunities for teams to work together, and instruction on cutting-edge strategies for school improvement. Join other educators, administrators, parents, youth, community members, and service providers and learn to work on making our schools and communities safe while supporting the social, emotional, and behavioral health of all children and youth. This conference will take place at the SERESC Event & Conference Center in Bedford on August 20-21, 2014. For more information, to download a brochure, and to register, please visit www.iod.unh.edu/events or call Sarah O'Rourke at (603) 228-2084.

E. Summer MATH Institute!

The August 5th & 6th, *Teaching to the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice Institute*, co-sponsored by NHASCD and Pinkerton Academy, will involve simultaneous but separate workshops for high school teachers and middle school teachers on understanding and implementing the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice (SMPs). For more information go to www.cvent.com/events/aug-5th-6th-2014-teaching-to-the-common-core-standards-for-mathematical-practice-institute-at-pinker/event-summary-ec0e285e8a324ac884e50200bcc24e1f.aspx.

F. Ten Technology Skills for Learning and Teaching, a 15-hour self-paced tutorial

In this **OPEN NH** tutorial, some basic skills necessary for effective use of technologies in the digital age are explored. Ten basic technology skills that can help improve how novices or reluctant users understand and use technology, from basic hardware and productivity tools to web browsers and software applications. This self-paced tutorial costs \$75.00 and will allow an exploration of these skills and at the time and pace that suits individual needs. It will help increase individual comfort levels as users move from novice to beginner. For more information and online registration, visit <https://www.regonline.com/tentechskills>. Districts may register cohorts of teachers in the tutorial at reduced cohort registration rates. For more information, visit www.opennh.org or contact the OPEN NH Project Coordinator.

RESOURCES

A. Theater Integrating Guidance, Education, and Responsibility (TIGER)

TIGER at Plymouth State University is a non-profit professional educational theatre company designed to help children, schools, parents, and communities deal proactively and positively with social issues and concerns facing children in schools today, including bullying. TIGER offers performances for grades K-8 in schools throughout New England as well as student and teacher workshops. Contact Trish Lindberg, Artistic Director at plindber@plymouth.edu or Pam Irish, Tour Manager at pmirish@plymouth.edu for additional information or to book a performance go to www.plymouth.edu/outreach/tiger.

OTHER

Digital Interventions for Document Disorganization

Participants in this workshop will learn how to use free interactive apps like QR Codes, Evernote, and LiveBinders to tame document disasters and create accessible educational learning environments. Learn how teachers, students, and parents can use these tools to stay organized (both in and out of the classroom) and to reduce their reliance on paper documents. This conference will take place at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel in Portsmouth on Friday, July 18, 2014. For more information, to download a brochure, and to register, please visit www.iod.unh.edu/events

NAEP 2015 Assessment Administrator Position

Westat is seeking motivated individuals who are committed to excellence and are experienced in working with primary and secondary school students to work as Assessment Administrators for the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress. Assessment Administrators will conduct assessment sessions with 4th-, 8th-, and 12th-grade students in participating schools across the country. Each session lasts approximately 90 minutes and involves about 30 students. Assessment Administrators will work on a team but will also conduct some sessions alone. For more information or to apply visit www.westat.com/CAREERS and select "Search Field Data Collection Jobs." Search for your state, find the NAEP Assessment Administrator position, and select the "Apply to Job" button.